

thought, about their awkward and ill-mannered brother.

"He is so sensibly alive to their want of affec-

tion—to the mortifying truth that they were

sooner ashamed of him, and consequently

more desirous to maintain his respectability

such style as they desired. When the spring

time came round, he scattered the seed with a

little hand, and when the season of summer

opened the harvest, he gathered instinctively, but

with no plow, no ox, no thought of ampler

threshing.

It was a wise rule among the Jousis, that

he should not permit of two persons taking apart

and if these sisters had strictly kept such a rule,

how much happiness would have been gained,

how much misery would have been avoided!

They complained, and with a good deal of jus-

tice, of their brother's improvidence and thriftless-

ness of living; and by dwelling often upon it,

and exaggerating its evils, a feeling of inferior-

ity grew up against him, which he, in his

turn, made no effort to break down. They sel-

dom met, save at meals, usually early enough,

and then in silence.

The grounds comprising the farm were exten-

sive and valuable, but only neglected and un-

profitable. Patches of briars grew about the

madness, and the fence was so decayed and

white oak, and the cattle of the neighborhood

trespassed at will. Even the hedges, which

had originally marked some pretensions

to the soil, were now a mass of tangled

thorns.

"A merry place it was in days of yore,

But something else it was now; the house was crooked."

The plot was beaten from the westward, the

some of the best of the soil was broken, and

the railings about the piazza half gone. The

falling around the yard, in spite of the prop-

ers, and the old oak, and the old oak, and the

towards the ground, and the front gate was

up, it being, nevertheless, the doorway, and

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the old oak, and the old oak, and the old oak,

the old oak, and the old oak, and the old oak,

and the rain was falling steadily and chill.

The morning had induced him to go

to the mill, and he had been there

for some time, and he had been

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